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## PATENT

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PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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For: LAUNDRY MACHINE )  
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Applicant: DARBY et al. )  
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PAPER OR FEE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST-CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231:	
August 28, 2001	Dated
<i>Tiffany E. Sexton</i>	
Tiffany E. Sexton	

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Asst. Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with Applicant's duty of candor under 37 CFR §1.56 and in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98, Applicant is not aware of any material prior art but, in an abundance of caution and candor, Applicant submits the present Information Disclosure Statement and the attached Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed references are included herewith.

The four references -- JP SHO61-162980; JP HEI5-76687; JP HEI10-85487 and EP 0 407 272 A1 -- are not in English.

The first Japanese patent, JP SHO61-162980, is relevant in that it discloses a dewatering washing machine with a drainage pump. The washing machine includes a dewatering/washing drum and agitator blades arranged inside an outer drum which stores washing water. The outer drum is linked to the drainage pump with a drainage hose. The washing drum also includes a control unit which operates a motor driving the washing drum and the drainage pump. The control unit operates the washing drum and the drainage pump intermittently in the initial part of the dewatering process. The control unit stops operation of the drainage pump when power is not supplied during the intermittent operation of the motor, and repeats a single stoppage of operation of the drainage pump when intermittent operation of the motor is carried out multiple

times. The control unit also intermittently stops the drainage pump during the continuous dewatering in the latter part of the dewatering process.

The second Japanese Patent No. JP HE15-76687 is relevant in that the invention relates to the drive control method for a fully automatic washing machine. This method prevents overheating of the TRIAC driving the pump motor and prevents obstruction by bubbles due to water extracted from clothing during dewatering. The control is made to intermittently drive and operate the drainage pump motor during dewatering.

The third Japanese patent, JP HE110-85487 is relevant in that the invention relates to a washing machine which prevents water from being undesirably discharged due to a siphon effect when supplying water after the washing drum has been drained. The drainage pump 12 is operated intermittently after operating continuously for a set period of time. Water which has flowed back into the discharge pump 12 during the drive stoppage period of the intermittent operation is forcefully fed into the drainage hose 10 during the next drive period, whereby the water remaining in the drainage hose 10 is gradually discharged and the water level A1 drops. Thus, even if water is subsequently supplied up to water level D, the water level A1 will not reach the peak point P, reliably preventing discharge of water.

The French Patent No. EP 0 407 272 A1 is relevant in that the invention relates to a washing machine with improved rinsing and low water consumption. At the end of each rinse of the rinsing cycle and during an emptying of its tank (3), the washing machine intermediately spins the wash at a selected high speed. Once the formation of a foamy emulsion reaches a predetermined order of magnitude, the washing machine interrupts the intermediate spinning. After evacuation of the foamy emulsion by a discharge pump, the washing machine resumes the intermediate spinning. This interruption and resumption are repeated until the intermediate spinning of the wash can be carried out at the selected high speed.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before receipt of a first Office Action on the merits and constitutes a bona fide attempt to comply with 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98. Therefore, it is believed that no fee is required. However, should the Examiner believe a fee is required, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized and requested to charge the fee to the deposit account of the undersigned firm, Account No. 20-1495.

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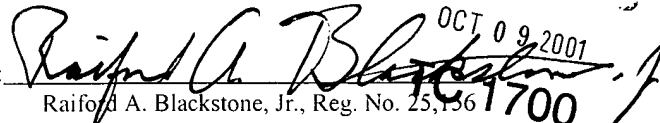
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In accordance with 37 CFR §1.97, the presentation of this information shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR §1.56 exists, or as an admission that the information cited in this statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 28, 2001

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